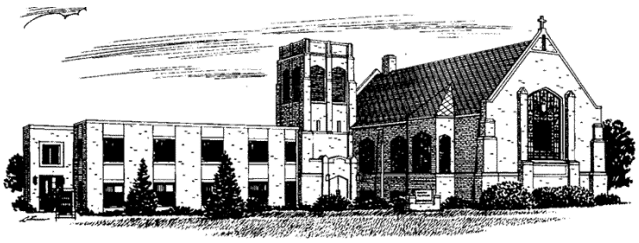

SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

January 2019

"Food is never 'just food' and its significance can never be just nutritional." Pat Caplan, "Food, Health and Identity" That is the quote that began our mid-week Advent worship, "At the Table," which included meditations provided by a study from ELCA World Hunger. Attention was given to who is invited around the table and the privilege of making meaningful choices about our food. We talked about hospitality as being open to what God is revealing to us and through our neighbors. We heard that the tables the church participates in reflect our beliefs about who the church is called to be and the transformation of the world God is enacting in our midst. We were challenged with the questions – Where is God inviting the church to be? Who is God inviting the church to be?

As we begin a new year, these are good questions to be asking and discerning. The answer is significant to how we live into our mission of *"joyfully sharing God's love for all!!!"*

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the many way you nourish us - with food, with family, with friends, with faith. In you, we are made new to be instruments of your grace in the world. Recall to us the many places of need in our world – places of injustice and violence, of hunger and poverty. Enrich us with love at the table you set that we may seek justice, love kindness and walk humbly with you into the future you have promised. In your holy name, amen. (From Advent Study 2018, ELCA World Hunger) Pastor Joan

Fortify and Fly Video

Many of you were able to see Project Fortify and Fly's video, featuring our choir, youth, and Saron leaders speaking of the ministry and vision of Saron. If you would like to watch the video again, or have a friend watch it, the link can be found at *https://youtu.be/d1UGzGbPXLg* or you can search on "Fortify & Fly" in YouTube.

The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Bell Choir Director
Email: roll1mc@gmail.com
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Nanci Fenrick, Financial Secretary
Emily Gaul, Child Care

Sundays at Saron:
During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –

We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows; **Bernice Koski** is at Woodland Terrace; **Virginia Anserello** is at Pine Ridge, Stevensville.

Serving in the military:

Andy Wedde – **California**

Office Hours at Saron

Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9:30 AM - 11 AM+
Nanci (financial secretary): Weds afternoon
Call for other times/changes
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.
Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in January 2019.

Jan. 2 - Betty Ross
Sophie de la Foret
3 – Richard Schalon
4 - Zachery Booth
Kathleen Preston
9 - Anthony Kickles, Jr.
13 - Nicholas Jantz
14 - T. J. Koehler
15 - Meredith Hammer
Pat Breyen
Walter Schmuhl
Colin Ashley
16 - Jonah Rood
18 - Hayley Frey
19 – Kathie Nadeau
Karen Hinckley
24 - Lyra Krall
25 – Karen Johnson
28 – John Taylor

Happy Anniversary Wishes to the following Members in January 2019

Jan. 1 - Charles and Linda Pater
2 – Jim and Jennifer Nicholas
19 – Steve and Denise Cook

For additions or corrections, please call the church office at 983-1273. Thank you.

Annual Meeting

Saron's Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 27th, 2019. A potluck will follow the 11:00 worship and the meeting is scheduled for 1:00 pm. All voting members of Saron are encouraged to attend, as we adopt a spending plan for 2019, receive reports, and hold elections.

CONGRATULATONS!

Congratulations to the Roll Family upon the birth of Finnegan O'Connor on December 14. Finn weighed in at 8 pounds. Welcome, Finn!

WITH SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy of the Oelz family, former members of Saron, upon the death of Erling in Missoula, Montana. Erling is survived by siblings Carole, Susan, David, and Michael. We keep them in our prayers.

Psalm 46:1a God is our refuge and strength.

THANK YOU!

We extend a huge thank you to Coanne Hohman who for several years has served as head of the acolytes. We appreciate your faithful service. We are grateful to Marilyn Lucy who will now be responsible for scheduling and Karen Hinckley who will facilitate care of the robes.

FORTIFY & fly

The All-Church Banquet on December 14th was a wonderfully entertaining night of fellowship and thanksgiving. Thank you to everyone that planned, executed and attended. Then, Commitment Sunday on December 16th was the culmination of all our hard work and prayer. We handed in our pledges and brought our total committed to over $300,000! That number will continue to grow as we follow up with those that have been unable to return their pledge cards. The grand total will be announced at Celebration Sunday on January 6th. What an exciting time to be part of Saron! Fortify & Fly everyone!

TIME TO RENEW "LIVING LUTHERAN" MAGAZINE
"*Living Lutheran,"* the magazine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, keeps us informed of events and issues impacting Lutherans. Subscribers also have access online to more than 9,000 archived articles and 400 Study guides. Those that have been enjoying *"Living Lutheran"* this past year or those who would like to begin receiving *"Living Lutheran"* will be able to purchase or renew for the price of $9.00 a year.

Please make out a check to Saron and write "Living Lutheran" in the memo area of your check or place cash in an envelope clearly identified with your name, the amount enclosed and the words *"Living Lutheran."* This can be handed in to the office or placed in the offering plate. We want to get all of the subscriptions in as soon as possible so that there will be no lapse in current subscriptions.

Worship

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS
As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Sunday, Jan. 6 – Fortify and Fly Celebration Sunday
Epiphany of Our Lord
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, Jan. 13
Baptism of Our Lord
Isaiah 43:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17,21-22

Sunday, Jan. 20
Second Sunday After Epiphany
Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

Sunday, Jan. 27
Third Sunday after Epiphany
Nehemiah 8-3,5-6,8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

2019 FLOWER CALENDAR
The 2019 flower calendar is posted. Cost: $25.00/vase. This is an opportunity for you to give flowers in honor or memory of someone. The church orders the flowers (unless you indicate otherwise) and you can take the flowers home after 2nd service.

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES
You may pick up your 2019 offering envelopes. They may be found near the church entrance doors. If you receive a giving statement (whether you give through the envelope system or electronically) there is likely a box for you.

PRAYER GROUP
Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

Nursery News
We would like another volunteer or two for the 8:30 am service. This could be someone who regularly attends early service or you could serve early nursery and attend late service. There is usually only one child but we need the second person in the room. You never know when a new family may join us and we have to have nursery in place to meet the need. Please let Marilyn Lucy know of your willingness.

Learning book of faith

Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

EPHESUS BIBLE STUDY GROUP

This group enjoys Bible study, conversation, and sharing a meal together. We typically meet on the third Sunday of each month, rotating among the homes of those participating. Please call the Kynasts (269-921-3816 for Mary, 269-921-2786 for Bob) if you'd like more information.

A CHRISTMAS TO BELIEVE IN

Thank you to Kristen Harper, Connie Slater, Nolan Becker, Troy Burrow, Jenna Henderson, Meredith Gacek, Kathie Bradley, Amanda Bradley, and all of our confirmation and Sunday School youth for a wonderful worship and the leadership of our youth on December 16.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Our study on "God's Extraordinary Church: Studies in Ephesians" will begin again on January 10. We gather on Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:00 at the church and always welcome newcomers.

Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study

Saron's Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study will resume our studies of the book of Numbers on January 8.

The Men's Bible Study meets at 6:00pm at the church. At 7:00pm we adjourn for a time of fellowship (something to eat and something to drink). We know everyone is busy so Bible study is a "come as you can" group. All men are invited to join in.

For more information call or text Bob Kynast at 269-921-2786 or bobkynast@gmail.com or Sid at 312-209-1301 or sidmohn@gmail.com.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17).

Men's monthly Bible Devotions and Breakfast
On Saturday, January 7, Saron Men's Monthly Devotion and Breakfast group will meet at the Galley Grill on Red Arrow Highway in Stevensville at 9:00 am. The Galley Grill is on the Super 8 Motel property at 4296 Red Arrow Highway just north of the Tyler Honda car dealership. We welcome new participants!

1ST SUNDAY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
We will not meet in January. This gives everyone plenty of time to read the book for February's meeting. We will gather on Sunday, February 10th, 6:30, in the upstairs lounge. Note; this is the second Sunday as we defer to the Super Bowl to be played on the first Sunday. We will be discussing "40 Autumns", by Nina Willner. This is a family's story of courage and survival on both sides of the Berlin Wall. Nina Willner is a former American military intelligence officer and this is her family's true story. She writes about the lives of five women separated by the Iron Curtain for more than forty years and their miraculous reunion after the fall of the Berlin Wall. A very poignant, fascinating history lesson complete with black/white and colored photographs. Curl up with this good book to help the long January days pass.

Please join us. A good discussion is guaranteed. Questions? Call Kathy Cowall (2690428-0354 or kcowall@hotmail.com.

"Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are". (Mason Cooley)

Women of the ELCA.

Deborah Circle Christmas Party will be held at the home of Mary Kynast on Wednesday, January 9th, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Everyone should bring a dish to pass (not dessert) and also a monetary gift for the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen.

SARON CHURCH WOMEN BAKE SALE
Saron Church Women thanks everyone who participated in the bake sale on December 9, 2018. Proceeds from that day came to $560.79. Thanks, also, for the continued donations on December 16. Totaling an additional $12.00. The grand total of $572.79 will be divided among the Saron Mentor Family Fund, ELCA Good Gifts, and the Berrien County Department of Health and Human Services Operation Good Cheer project (so foster children may receive Christmas gifts). Mentor Family Fund donations are accepted throughout the year. Thanks, again, for all of your support!

On Sunday, January 13, 2019 Saron Church Women Officers and Leaders will be installed. They are:
President: Melanie McCammon
Vice President: Linda Pater
Secretary: Janet Oleson
Treasurer: Denise Cook
Mission: Action Chair: Colleen Lundgren
CWU Representative: Irma Gorman
Deborah Circle Chair: Melanie McCammon
Dorcas Circle Chair: Irma Gorman

Support

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving
Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.

STOCK DONATIONS
Saron partners with TD Ameritrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, e-mail Matt Bradley and Nanci Fenrick to receive the account number for which the shares will be transferred to. Once the transaction has been completed, e-mail Matt Bradley and Nanci Fenrick the name of the stock, the number of shares, and the date of the transfer. This allows the transaction to be completed and ensures it is included on your giving statement.
Thanks! Matt Bradley, treasurer

Are you a Thrivent member?
If so, you have an opportunity to help with the funding of a work project, as coordinated through our Outreach or Facilities teams. Please let Janet Oleson or Pastor know if you are a member, have interest or questions.

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments
Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

Outreach

ELCA GOOD GIFTS

Thank you to all who purchased an ELCA GOOD GIFT ornament. You have made a difference in someone's life. God's Work. Our Hands.

Thank you, Outreach

BENTON HARBOR SOUP KITCHEN

On Thanksgiving Day, 18 pies were baked by Saron members & enjoyed by the guests at the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen. Thank you to Keith Stevens for donating the pies in memory of his wife, Jan, who was Saron's longtime coordinator. Also, thanks to our bakers: Kathy Cowall, Janet Oleson, Frieda Williams, Ruth Ball, & Kathie Bradley & to Dave Bradley for delivering the pies Thanksgiving morning.

Large cans of fruit are always needed at the Soup Kitchen & can be dropped off anytime at the church. Any questions or to volunteer or provide cookies please contact Kathie Bradley at 269-427-7083.

INCLUSIVITY TASK FORCE

A task force at Saron has been looking at issues of inclusivity and how to best live into our mission of "joyfully sharing God's love for all!!!" Serving on the task force are Kati and Nick Hooper, Laurel Gacek, Laura Hicks, Sid Mohn, and Pastor. Contact any of these folks if you would like to know more.

INTERFAITH ACTION

General Meetings of Interfaith Action will occur on the 4th Tuesday of the odd months of the year. Working Groups will meet during even months of the year. Each of these groups has been establishing goals for 2019. More details to come!

Persons interested in joining a working group should contact the Coordinator or Sid Mohn (sidmohn@gmail.com).

1. Great Waters Initiative: advancing safe drinking water for Michigan, preserving the resources of the Great Lakes, and advocating access to water as threatened by climate change. Coordinator: Karla Donnell Bragg. Karladb@comcast.net Next

2. Green Faith: greening our communities of faith through environmental stewardship. Coordinator: Sue Greenwood. Tawnyginger@gmail.com.

3. Dignity of All: promoting inclusion and justice to counter discrimination based on race, gender, faith, sexual orientation/gender identity; ensuring protections and opportunities for the poor. Coordinator: Laura Hicks. Lhicks42@gmail.com.

4. No Longer a Stranger: welcoming the stranger as neighbor through generous refugee policy and practice and fair and just immigration policy and practice. Coordinator: Robert Burgess. Roblloydburgess@gmail.com.

5. Keep the Peace: advocating for peace in global conflicts; addressing gun violence in the US: Coordinator: Glyn Durston. Miglynd@comcast.net.

COMPANION SYNOD NEWS

If you would like to learn more about our companion synod – the Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras – and the situation there, please find information posted on the kiosk.

FACEBOOK & WORSHIP VIDEO

We love to share pictures of Saron's ministry on our Facebook page and we get great feedback. It is our practice not to put names with the pictures. Portions of our worship are being recorded for the purpose of sharing with those who are not able to attend worship, particularly those who are home bound. If you have questions, or prefer your picture not to appear on a video, please contact Aaron Becker (at the camera) or Pastor.

Facilities

USED INK CARTRIGES NEEDED

Please save your used ink cartridges as we receive rebates to be used on office supplies. There is a collection box in the Narthex. Thank you.

Council News

Attendance Record	
12/02/2018	*102*
12/09/2018	*104*
12/16/2018	*155*
12/23/2018	*tbd*

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

January 2019

We're on Facebook! Like us at
www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

Saron 2019
January Volunteer Schedule

	January 6 ***Epiphany of our Lord***		***January 13*** ***Baptism of Our Lord***		***January 20*** ***Second Sunday after Epiphany***		***January 27*** ***Third Sunday after Epiphany***	
	8:30	**11:00**	**8:30**	**11:00**	**8:30**	**11:00**	**8:30**	**11:00**
	Sue Rood	Denise Cook	Marilyn Frey	Tyler Cook	Pauline Ngonyani	Colleen Lundgren	Eric Standen	Connie Slater
Reader/ Comm.Asst	Karen Hinckley	Scott Gaspari	Steve Bell	Don Hafer	Sally Schmuhl	Dan Fortenbacher	Jim Manore	Bill Oleson
Ushers	Keith Stevens & Steve Bell	John Olson & Krin Jurgensen	Fritz Knauf & Jim Manore	Scott and Lindsay Gaspari	Fran Richards & Elizabeth Kunkel	Jerry and Ruth Stelling	Dave & Sue Bailey	Peter & Karen Johnson
Acolyte	Troy & Eric Burrow	Grant Gacek	Troy & Eric Burrow	Molly Becker	Brooke Henderson	Mia & Alaina Bradley	Brandon & Eric Burrow	Meredith Gacek
Nursery 1st	Deb Standen	Mary Kynast	Allison Rood	Judi Huff	Mary Alice Brunner	Lindsay Gaspari	Marilyn Lucy	Darlene Kiessel
Nursery 2nd	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul
Bldg. close		Dennis & Colleen Lundgren		Brad and Marilyn Frey		Brad and Marilyn Frey		Bob and Mary Kynast
Snacks								
Flowers					Jonah's 5th birthday on the 16th		John Taylor birthday 28th	

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 9:40 a.m. SCS Classes	*New Year's Eve*	**1** Church office closed New Year's day	**2** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers	**3** 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	**4**	5 9:00 a.m. Men's Devotion/Breakfast Galley Grill, Stevensville
6 *Worship/Learning Schedule Above*	**7** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**8** 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Support Committee	**9** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers 6:00 p.m. Deborah Circle	**10** 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	**11**	12
13 *Worship/Learning Schedule Above* 11:00 a.m. Installation of Saron Church Women	**14** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group Newsletter Articles due Pastor on	**15** 4:00 p.m. Vasa 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study vacation	**16** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers ----------	**17** 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal ----------	**18** ----------	19 ----------
20 *Worship/Learning Schedule Above* ----------	**21** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m.Church Council Meeting	**22** 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**23** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers	**24** 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	**25**	26
27 *Worship/Learning Schedule Above* 12:00 p.m. Potluck 1:00 p.m. Annual Meeting	**28** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**29** 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**30** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers	**31** 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal		